

A NEW SNAKE FROM ASSAM.
OLIGODON ERYTHORHACHIS.

BY

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(*With a Plate.*)

Among other snakes sent to me from Namsang, Jaipur, Assam, by Mr. C. Gore, I find one belonging to the genus *Oligodon*, which has not been previously described. It is a ♀?, measuring 1 foot $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches, of which the tail accounts for $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Lepidosis.—*Rostral* touches 6 shields, the rostro-nasal and rostro-internasal sutures subequal, and nearly twice the rostro-labials. *Internasals* a pair, the suture between them nearly equal to that between the præfrontal fellows, less than half the internaso-præfrontals. *Præfrontals* a pair, the suture between them less than half the præfronto-frontals; in contact with internasal, nasal, 2nd labial, præocular, supraocular and frontal. *Frontal* touches 6 shields, the supraocular sutures rather longest. *Supraoculars* length about four-fifths, breadth less than half that of frontal. *Parietals* touch one postocular. *Nasals* undivided, in contact with the 1st and 2nd labials. *Loreal* absent, (perhaps confluent with the præfrontal). *Præocular* one. *Postoculars* two. *Temporal* one, touching the 5th and 6th labials. *Supralabials* 7; the 3rd and 4th touching the eye. *Infralabials* 4, the 4th largest, and in contact with two scales behind. *Sublinguals* two pairs, the posterior about $\frac{2}{3}$ rds the length of the anterior, and in contact with the 4th only of the infralabial series. *Costals* two head-lengths behind the head 15, midbody 15, two head-lengths before the anus 13. In the reduction from 15 to 13, the 3rd and 4th rows above the ventrals unite. *Vertebrales* not enlarged. *Ultimate* row barely enlarged. No keels. No apical pits. *Ventrals* 154, not angulate. *Anal* divided. *Subcaudals* 46 pairs.

Colour.—The dorsal ground colour is dark grey, but when looked at closely, this effect is produced by a very fine powdering of black specks on a light grey ground. A bright red vertebral band passes from the nape to the tail tip, involving the vertebral, and one and a half rows on each side. Narrow, black, light-edged cross-bars pass over the back, 29 on the body, 7 on the tail, and become more or less

broken up in the flanks. The dorsal ground colour extends well on to the sides of the ventrals. The head is marked with a dark band over the præfrontals which re-appear below the eye, oblique streaks from the parietals, behind the gape to the side of the neck, and an elongate, sagittiform mark on the nape, the apex of which meets the præfrontal band. The belly is whitish and handsomely adorned with squarish black spots, for the most part laterally disposed. A median red stripe passes along the belly and beneath the tail, disappearing anteriorly before the throat.
